AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. - 32. (canceled)

33. (original): A well tool protection system, the system comprising:

a flapper;

a housing having a protection fluid chamber in fluid communication with a discharge port positioned proximate the flapper;

a protection fluid contained within the protection fluid chamber;

a first slide sleeve positioned in moveable connection with the flapper wherein the first slide sleeve is held in a static position by a first breakable member;

a second slide sleeve positioned in moveable relation to the first slide sleeve;

a load support positioned below the second slide sleeve in a manner supporting the second slide sleeve in a set position;

a retainer maintaining the load support in a set position; and

a second breakable member maintaining the retainer in a set position.

34. (original): The system of claim 33 wherein the load support carries a substantial portion of the load from the differential pressure across the flapper when the flapper is in a closed position.

35. (original): The system of claim 33 wherein the load support is positioned within a groove formed in a flow tube.

36. (original): The system of claim 35 wherein the load support has a wedge face that matches a wedge face in the groove formed in the flow tube.

37. (original): The system of claim 36 wherein the load support carries a substantial portion of the load from the differential pressure across the flapper when the flapper is in a closed position.

38. (currently amended): A well tool protection method comprising the steps of:

supporting a force from a pressure differential across a flapper when the flapper is in a closed position;

actuating a first slide sleeve to move the flapper to an open position;

parting a first breakable member allowing the first slide sleeve to move;

equalizing the pressure differential across the flapper;

parting a second breakable member releasing a second slide sleeve for movement;

urging a second slide sleeve into movement by movement of the first slide sleeve;

moving a load support;

expelling a [[the]] protection[[s]] fluid; and

moving the flapper to the open position.

39. (original): The method of claim 38 wherein the force from the differential pressure across the flapper is carried substantially by the load support.

40. (original): The method of claim 39 wherein the load support is a split ring.

41. (original): The method of claim 39 wherein the load support is positioned within a groove formed in a flow tube.

42. (original): The method of claim 39 wherein the load support has a wedge face that matches a wedge face in the groove formed in the flow tube.